

THE INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE
BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF MALIK
JARNO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a private bill to make Malik Jarno a permanent resident of the United States and to end the protracted ordeal of immigration removal proceedings that has spanned almost one-quarter of this young man's life.

Malik is a mentally disabled teenage orphan from Guinea whose compelling plight has attracted the concern and involvement of more than 70 members of Congress, countless citizens, the international media and dozens of national, state and local organizations working with the mentally disabled, children and immigrants and refugees.

Deporting Malik to Guinea to face life-threatening circumstances would run contrary to the standard of human rights and decency this country maintains. Members of Malik's family were killed and his home was destroyed in the midst of ethnically and politically motivated violence in Guinea. Immigration authorities have received overwhelming evidence of Malik's shattered life and the serious risk of harm he faces, given his father's status as a prominent political dissident, at the hands of Guinean authorities. The heightened threat associated with Malik's deportation places a special responsibility on this country to consider the well-being and livelihood of this young man.

In addition, as a mentally disabled, homeless orphan, the potential risks of a life in Guinea are aggravated. With no known family or friends to care for Malik, he faces the reality of being relegated to the fringes of a society that has no infrastructure or services to support this young man's special needs. According to information from USAID, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and other agencies, there are no government or non-profit programs or legal protections for mentally disabled individuals in Guinea. Given his disability, he will face ostracism and severe discrimination and be extremely vulnerable to physical abuse, oppressive conditions and hostile treatment.

In an act of desperation, family friends that were looking after Malik put him on a plane bound for the United States. Upon his arrival at Dulles International Airport in 2001, Malik was detained by immigration officials and held in adult jails, where his special needs as a mentally disabled child were neglected in the company of adult convicts, for eight months, before he was allowed to appear before a judge to apply for asylum. Only after another two years of detention was Malik transferred from a maximum security prison to a refugee shelter in York, Pennsylvania. His case is now pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

This ordeal has dragged on for too many years and the perpetual uncertainty has left Malik anxious and unsettled. He continues to study, make friends, and go to school in York, Pennsylvania, but with the constant threat of being torn away from his life in the United States. Malik has a promising future in the United States and this bill will provide Malik with a permanent immigration status and the path to becoming a productive and contributing citizen.

In these troubled times, where our reputation as a beacon for human rights has been challenged by the situation in Iraq, the United States has a heightened responsibility to guarantee justice and humane treatment to the most vulnerable in society instead of relegating a mentally disabled orphan to such a horrific fate.

CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN
SCHOOLS TO HUNGRY OR MAL-
NOURISHED CHILDREN AROUND
THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of House Resolution 422. Recognizing that more than 300 million children suffer from chronic hunger worldwide, we need to restore funding for this program at levels similar to those of the original pilot program.

Providing nutritious food at schools worldwide is a simple, but effective way to improve literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty.

I strongly believe this funding is key to combating several root causes of international terrorism. It increases the school attendance of children who may otherwise be susceptible to recruitment by terrorist groups who offer meals.

As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I also believe that by providing financial and technical assistance for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition programs, we help fight HIV/AIDS. Schools provide one of the most effective means to teach children about disease prevention.

These are specific examples of how school feeding operations benefit low-income countries.

The fact that both the initial pilot program and the current McGovern-Dole Program have a proven track record at reducing the incidence of hunger among school-age children, increasing attendance, particularly for girls, and improving literacy and primary education, clearly indicates that we should work with the United Nations and its member states to expand international contributions for the distribution of food in schools around the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget how global school feeding operations benefit low-income countries—education is a path to upward mobility that can help poor children improve their standard of living, and, most importantly, help poor nations develop more productive, self-reliant economies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HERB AND
ARA WEIMER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to Herb and Ara

Weimer of Westcliffe, Colorado. Herb and Ara are valuable members of their community, and volunteer their time and efforts towards bettering their community. In recognition of their service, the Custer County Chamber of Commerce recently recognized them by naming them the 2004 Citizens of the Year for their efforts in the community and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation today.

As members of the Custer County community, the Weimers feel a responsibility to actively volunteer in their community. They have a passion for history and desire to contribute to the preservation of the rich history of their community and gather information to educate future generations about their predecessors. With this interest in history, Herb is the president and Ara is a board member of the Custer County Historical and Genealogical Society. Their positions enable them to coordinate the programs the society puts on each month. They also pursue their interest in history by helping with the annual History and Horses Tour for the Friends of the Library. They are active in volunteering to help those in need, aiding senior citizens, bringing meals on wheels and providing transportation. They have worked with a group to restore the Willow's School and Beckwith Ranch, and remain active members in Valley Bible Church.

Mr. Speaker, Herb and Ara Weimer have shown outstanding dedication to their community, and I am honored to recognize their service before this body of Congress and this nation. The Weimers' humble nature in their pursuits to volunteer and help fellow citizens contributes in the building of a strong community. I congratulate them on receiving the Citizen of the Year Award and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Monday, July 19th, I was unavoidably detained at Newark International Airport, due to both mechanical problems and bad weather, while traveling back for votes on Rollcall Votes 391–393. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall Votes 391–393.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTER-
NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PUR-
POSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H. Res. 713 because I believe the intent of this resolution had nothing to do with Israel's best interests, nor with promoting peace in the Middle East. The text was written by the Republican majority with the explicit intent of trying to be as politically divisive as possible.